(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the details of the information which is awaited;

(d) the details of the funds released, so far and the dates on which they have been released; and

(e) whether any of the funds in terms of amount and dates, received by the State go beyond the parameters set by the Finance Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Government of West Bengal submitted a Memorandum seeking additional financial assistance of Rs. 89.46 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of Tornado in March, 1998. This assistance has been sought under various sectors viz. agriculture, animal, fisheries, public health, forest, health, rural housing, power, Public Works Department, horticulture, rescue and relief.

(d) and (e) Under the existing scheme for financing relief expenditure the State Governments are required to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities out of the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). Additional assistance is also provided from the NFCR only in the wake of a calamity of rare severity.

In addition to release of the Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 40.62 crore for the year 1997-98, first quarterly instalment of Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 10.67 crore for the year 1998-99 has also been released on 1st April, 1998. The request of the State Government for assistance from the NFCR was examined and the situation caused by toranado was not considered as a calamity of rare severity on the basis of extent of damage and requirements of relief and rehabilitation.

कृषि क्षेत्र में महिलाओं की भागीदारी

136. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार कृषि क्षेत्र में महिलाओं की समान भागीदारी और एक अलग पहचान बनाने के लिए कोई व्यापक योजना बनाने पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त योजना की मुख्य-मुख्य विशेषताएं क्या हैं और क्या महिलाओं के अधिकार पूर्णतः सुरक्षित रखने के लिए कोई विशेष प्रावधान किए जाएंगे;

(ग) क्या कृषि क्षेत्र में महिलाओं की भागीदारी और उनके मालिकाना हकों के बारे में अब तक कोई राज्य-वार व्यापक सर्वेक्षण किया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका क्या परिणाम निकला है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): (क) जी, हां,। आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान "कृषि में महिलाएं" नामक एक केन्द्रीय क्षेत्र की योजना मार्गदर्शी आधार पर शुरू की थी ताकि महिला कृषकों को कृषि क्षेत्र में बराबर की भागीदारी प्रदान की जा सके और उनकी पृथक पहचान बनाई जा सके।

नौवीं योजना अवधि के दौरान इस स्कीम का और अधिक राज्यों/जिलों में विस्तार किए जाने का प्रस्ताव है।

(ख) इस योजना में महिला कृषकों को समूह बनाने के लिए प्रेरित करने तथा संगठित करने की बात अनिवार्य रूप से निहित है। विस्तार, प्रशिक्षण, आदान और अन्य कृषि समर्थन संबंधी सभी सेवाओं को इन समूहों के माध्यम से संचालित किया जाता है। इन समूहों को विशिष्ट सोसायटियां बनाने के लिए भी प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है। महिला तथा बाल विकास वर्तमान में राष्ट्रीय महिला अधिकार नीति की जांच कर रही है जिसमें पुरुषों और महिलाओं के अधिकारों में बराबरी के लिए वचनबद्धता की मांग की गई है।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) प्रश्न ही नहीं होता।

Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme

137. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are sponsoring a Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme for all loanee farmers;

(b) if so, the details and the objectives of the scheme;

(c) whether this scheme has been implemented in every district in all the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for excluding certain districts from the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (e) A Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) covering all the farmers availing crop loans from rural financial institutions i.e. Cooperative Credit Structure, Regional Rural Banks and Commercial Banks, for growing wheat, paddy, millets (including maize), oilseeds and pulses has been under implementation in the country since 1985. The objectives of CCIS are to provide financial support in the event of crop failure due to natural calamities such as droughts, floods etc. and to restore the credit-eligibility of the farmers. It is voluntary for the States to opt for implementation of this scheme. The choice of districts is also open to the States and depends upon the need for the scheme, availability of yield data and capability of the State to conduct the stipulated number of crop cutting experiments. In Rabi 1997-98 season, the scheme was under implementation in 15 States and 2 Union Territories.

Signing of MoU with Myanmar

138. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Myanmar for cooperation in the area of agriculture and allied sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the areas of agriculture and allied sectors between the Government of India and the Government of Myanmar was signed on 25th April, 1998 in Yangon.

(b) The important details of the MoOU, interalia, are the following:—

(1) Both the parties shall engage in joint activities in the areas of crop sciences, research agricultural extension, sericulture, horticulture, jute, sugarcane, arid zone agriculture, cooperative farming, agricultural mechanization, agricultural statistics, georgraphic information system (GIS), fertilizer and pesticides use and agricultural Joint ventures, agro based industries, such as, sugar, jute, cotton, tea processing industries, exchange of scientific information and germplasm, rainfed watershed development and water resources development including irrigation.

(2) The Parties shall also promote development of cooperation in agricultural science and technology, exchange of delegation and experts and also exchange of trainees in order to acquaint themselves of the development in the areas indicated earlier.

(3) Cooperation would also be promoted within the frame-work of the joint activities through biennial work plans drawn up by mutual agreement.

(4) There is a provision of Joint Working Group to be formed comprising equal number of members from each of the parties to manitor the activities carried out in fulfilment of this MoU. The Working Group shall hold its meeting alternately in India and in Myanmar once in every two years.

(5) As per the financial provisions of the MoU, the sending party shall bear the cost of international air travel and the receiving party shall